



The Committee on Urban Design and Environment (CUDE) met at 11:30 AM on Thursday, June 17, 2010 in Room 320 City Hall, Rochester, MN.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dick Abraham, Nora Dooley, Gail Eadie, Mark Engel, Jim Judisch, Stephan Lewis, Lindsey Meek, Dave Petersen, Brian Smidt, Barry Skolnick, Jean Weathers-Lowin

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sandi Goslee, Mark Jasmin, Todd Severson, Terry Spaeth, Susan Strandberg

OTHERS PRESENT

Doug Knott, Phil Wheeler, Michael Wojcik

I. Administrative Business

- A. The meeting was called to order at 11:37 with a quorum.
- B. The April 2010 Meeting Minutes were approved. There were no May minutes to consider.
- C. Introduction to new member – Barry Skolnick. Barry recently relocated to Rochester from Manhattan. He is excited about opportunities to be involved in the City of Rochester.
- D. Lindsey Meek self-nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. A motion was made to elect Ms. Meek as Vice-Chair with a second – all aye's – passed.
- E. No referral notices were presented.
- F. No Notes of Appreciation were announced.
- G. No discussion on CUDE awards or notes of appreciation processes.

II. Old Business

- A. No old business was brought up.

III. New Business

- A. CUDE's role in implementation of Downtown Master Plan
 - 1. Doug Knott presented an update to the Downtown Master Plan (DTMP) progress. Most information is available on the DTMP website. There have been many meetings and open houses for the plan. The final plan should be presented in a couple weeks, and the hope is to have the City Council adopt the plan in September. The Plan looks at a 20-year long-term vision for the city. It does not dictate what can happen at individual sites, rather takes a look at entire zones of downtown and what might happen within each zone from housing types, retail, and open space as opportunities for redevelopment arise. Part of the recommendations of the DTMP call for revising the City's zoning ordinance to allow for more rewards and incentives for mixed-use developments that adhere to the goals of the Plan. This may include lowering the minimum parking standards and setting a maximum (there have been issues with

banks not lending to developers unless the development includes generous parking allowances). One goal of the DTMP is to reduce single occupant commuters by encouraging more outlying park-n-rides, or perhaps encouraging cash-in-lieu of parking for employees of downtown businesses (studies have shown that many will accept cash over parking).

2. A discussion took place over Highway 63 (Broadway Ave). The DTMP envisions Broadway becoming less of a barrier between west and east downtown as it is today. One obstacle is that currently Broadway is under state jurisdiction. Until the City is able to take over jurisdiction of the roadway, the City has little control over the design of Broadway as a more pedestrian-friendly, lower speed roadway from the “through street” it is today, carrying heavy truck traffic. The City has entertained offers from Mn/DoT but at this time it does not appear to cover the anticipated 50-year costs associated with the upkeep of the roadway from 37th Street north to 28th Street south.
3. Mr. Wojcik pointed out that the city ordinance does allow the city to require a development to adhere to the policies of an adopted plan.
4. The DTMP Steering Committee will remain for 12-18 months after the Plan is adopted to ensure a transition into implementation takes place. From there, the hope is to establish a DTMP advisory committee to help ensure the strategies set forth in the DTMP are implemented. This group may consist of people from neighborhood groups, citizens, RDA, Chamber, Historic Preservation. CUDE is interested in playing a role in the implementation phase of the DTMP. It was suggested that at least one member of CUDE from perhaps the City Visioning subcommittee might be asked to sit on the implementation group.

IV. Meeting Recap

- A. The DTMP steering committee will present the final plan at the July regular CUDE meeting.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.